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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1944.

To the Sanitary Authority of the Borough of Welshpool.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.

This report is drawn up as directed by the Welsh Board of Health in Circ. 49/45 (Wales) of March 19th, 1945, but could not be completed sooner as the statistics supplied by the Registrar-General have only recently been supplied.

The restrictions previously imposed, on the grounds of national security have now been removed regarding population figures, etc.

The mid-year population of the Borough is now esticated to be 5,585, being a decrease of 34 on the 1943 population.

Births.—Live births: Male, 59; Female, 48. Total live births, 107. Illegitimate births, 8.

1943 total was 90 with 6 illegitimate.

1942 total was 91 with 6 illegitimate.

Birth Rate for 1944 was 19.1. Average for England and Wales 17.6 per 1,000 civilian population.

There were only 2 still births.

DEATHS.—Male, 42; Female, 42. Total deaths, 84.

1943 total was 89.

1942 total was 76.

DEATH RATE for 1944 was 15.04.

Principal causes of death:—

Cancer, 21.

Cerebral haemorrhage, 10.

Heart Diseases, 10.

Pneumonia, 5.

Nephritis, 5.

Diabetes, 3.

Tuberculosis (Respiratory system), 2.

Ulcer of stomach or duodenum, 2.

Appendicitis, 2.

Road traffic, 3.

Suicide, 1.

MATERNITY MORTALITY RATE.—Nil.

No deaths from diarrhoea under two years of age.

Of the five deaths of infants under 1 year, one was a premature and another congenitally malformed, excluding these the Infantile Mortality rate was 28 per 1,000 live births.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The year under review, as regards the incidence of infectious disease, calls for no special comment, there

was an entire absence of Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers, which in years past, before the chlorination of the water supply, were endemic.

In the last 40 years there has been no case of Smallpox in the area.

The following cases were notified:—

Scarlet Fever.—4.

Whooping Cough, 9.

Diphtheria.—1.

Erysipelas—3.

Measles.—4.

Pneumonia—11.

Puerperal pyrexia.—1.

As previously stated there were 5 Deaths from Pneumonia, otherwise all the cases notified as Infectious disease recovered.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Cases notified during 1944:—

2 Male, 4 Female.—Pulmonary.

1 Male.—Tuberculous epdidymitis.

1 female.—Tuberculous peritonitis.

Total, 8.

Notification of Tuberculosis by Medical Practitioners is satisfactory.

In 1943, 14 new cases were notified.

In 1944 there were 15 deaths from tuberculosis in the Urban districts of Montgomeryshire, of these 2 were in the Welshpool area.

The average number of deaths per annum, for the past 14 years in the Borough, being 2.28 (from report made to the Montgomeryshire Ins. Co.).

The removal of the Clinic from the old Dispensary to the Victoria Memorial Hospital, where modern treatment can be given, has proved an unqualified success under the Tuberculosis Physician, Dr. Jackson, whose work has greatly increased.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

The above not being notifiable it is impossible to say whether there has been an increase, or otherwise, in their prevalence, but experience has shewn that in war time venereal disease tends to increase, personally I have no reason to believe that there has been any marked increase in the Borough, although the number of illegitimate births suggests no improvement in morality. Any case that comes under notice is most strongly advised to attend the V.D. Clinic, Belmont, Shrewsbury, for early treatment. I arranged, recently, under the auspices of the Ministry of Health, a display of photographs showing what Venereal Diseases are, their effects and results, at the Town Hall, for those who wished to see them, and some 300 persons attended this exhibition.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—This is dealt with by the County Council.

TOWN WATER.

The rainfall figures for the year were:—

January	...	3.20in.	July	...	1.61in.
February	...	1.78in.	August	...	2.71in.
March	...	.46in.	September	...	3.15in.
April	...	1.17in.	October	...	3.63in.
May	...	2.48in.	November	...	4.50in.
June	...	2.28in.	December	...	2.64in.
			Total	...	29.61in.

Details of water entering the reservoirs during the year were as follows: Up to the end of April over 200,000 gallons entered daily and, during May, the readings were 150,000 and 112,000. During June the quantity went down to 64,900; July, 64,905; August, 47,637; September it rose to 70,182, and in October over 100,000; November and December the readings were over 200,000.

The monthly gaugings of St. Garmon's Well were as follows:—

		Gallons per day.			Gallons per day.
January	...	79.574	July	...	47,637
February	...	95,975	August	...	47,637
March	...	84,758	Sept. 7th	...	29,963
April	...	65,975	Sept. 27th	...	19,265
May	...	55.036	October	...	47,637
June	...	51,336	November	...	51.336
			December	...	79,574

At the end of the dry period the lower pool was 5-ft. 8-in. below the top water level, the second and third pools were full. There was ample supply during the year.

The minimum waste line registered on night inspection was 1,400 gallons per hour.

The average consumption is 105,000 gallons per day.

Ten samples of Town water were taken and all were satisfactory.

Fifteen samples of water from St. Garmon's Spring were taken; of these, 13 were satisfactory and 2 unsatisfactory.

Weekly gaugings have been taken of water from the Welsh Harp and 11 samples were submitted for analyses, all of which were satisfactory.

In addition the following samples were taken: Brunant, 25; Gelli, 9; Trinity Well, Trewern, 2.

During the year a total of 74 samples were submitted to the Medical Research Council Laboratories for analyses.

There were no extensions of the water main during the year.

Guilsfield Supply.— The 13 analyses of this water have all been satisfactory. Weekly visits are made to inspect the drip chlorinator. At the end of the dry period the quantity of water in the storage tank was 145,000 gallons. The minimum spring yield into the tank was 1,289 gallons per day which was recorded on the 1st September. No consumption tests were carried out during the year.

Town Drainage and Sewers. — Sewer extension to Oldford Cottage took place during the year, otherwise there was no change in the system. The usual cleaning and flushing of sections of the sewers was carried out and there was no flooding of the system in the built-up area.

Infestation Order.—As a result of the Rat Survey carried out in the Borough and by arrangements with the Ministry of Food, a joint Committee has been set up to deal with the Rodent problem in the areas of Mont-

gomery Borough, Forden R.D.C. and Welshpool Borough—Mr. R. E. Davies, was appointed Rodent Operator for these three areas on the 1st October, 1944, and satisfactory progress in the destruction of rats and mice is being made.

Rivers and Streams.—No action was found necessary.

Closet Accommodation.—No change.

Shops and Offices.—The provision of the Shops Acts have been complied with. No proceedings took place.

Smoke Abatement.—No action.

Swimming Baths.—No action.

Schools.—The Schools in the Borough have been inspected periodically.

Milk.— At the end of the year there were 18 retail producers and 70 wholesale producers, on the Registers kept under the Milk and Dairies Order.

One producer was transferred to the wholesale register.

Three applications were received for registration under this order and 2 producers were registered.

At the end of the year 24 producers in the Borough held accredited licences as compared with 22 in the previous year, and there were 14 producers holding T.T. Licences.

In all 53 samples were taken for analysis and the results were 40 A's, 11 B's, and 2 C's.

Tinned Foodstuffs.—There has been a large increase in the consumption of tinned food. 268 small tins have

been condemned as unfit for human consumption. In addition the under-mentioned food was condemned:—

Meat	85lbs.
Bacon	165lbs.
Tomatoes	876lbs.
Chocolate	48lbs.

Post-War Preparation.—During the year the Council have submitted to the Ministry of Health details of a supplementary water scheme from Trinity Well, Welsh Harp.

Plans for the construction of roads for the Bronybuckley Housing Site and for the laying of water mains and sewers were also submitted, and the approval of the Ministry of Health obtained. This work is now in hand.

The notes on rainfall, water supply, etc., were kindly supplied by the Borough Surveyor and Water Inspector, to whom and your Town Clerk I should like to take this opportunity of thanking for their valuable help and advice, and also for the kind consideration, during very many years, that I have received at your hands.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. A. CRUMP.

July, 1945.